CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A computer-implemented method for electronically obtaining a Web page in a Web browser comprising:

requesting a Web page;

obtaining a bootstrap file, wherein the bootstrap file comprises

a declaration of a component module control object; and

a script block comprising a method that accesses the component module control object;

obtaining the component module control object, wherein the component module control object comprises one or more resources;

installing the component module control object; and

using the method of the script block to extract a Web page based on the resources of the component module control object.

2. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

determining if the control object is an up to date version of the control object;

if the control object is not an up to date version, obtaining and installing an up to date version of the control object.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the determining comprises:

obtaining a new bootstrap file;

examining an object declaration of the new bootstrap file to obtain version

information; and

determining if the obtained object version information is more recent than version information for an already installed object.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein:

a connection to a server is not available; and

the Web page is obtained exclusively via the bootstrap file, wherein the bootstrap file is stored locally.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein:

a connection to a server is available; and

the Web page comprises content obtained from the resources of the component module control object and from the server.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein at least one of the resources is accessed using the RES protocol.

7. The method of claim 1 wherein the object is an ActiveX control.

8. The method of claim 1 wherein the bootstrap file is a text document.

9. A system for electronically obtaining a Web page in a Web browser comprising:

a bootstrap file, wherein the bootstrap file comprises:

a declaration of a component module control object; and

a script block comprising a method that accesses the component module control object;

a Web browser application executing on a client computer, the Web browser configured to:

request a Web page;

obtain the bootstrap file in response to the request;

obtain the component module control object identified in the bootstrap file, wherein the component module control object comprises one or more resources;

install the component module control object; and

use the method of the script block to extract a Web page based on the resources of the component module control object.

10. The system of claim 9, the Web browser further configured to:

determine if the control object is an up to date version of the control object;

if the control object is not an up to date version, obtain and install an up to date version of the control object.

11. The system of claim 10 wherein the Web browser determines if the control object is up to date by:

obtaining a new bootstrap file;

examining an object declaration of the new bootstrap file to obtain version information; and

determining if the obtained object version information is more recent than version information for an already installed object.

12. The system of claim 9 wherein:

a connection to a server is not available; and

the Web page is obtained exclusively via the bootstrap file wherein the bootstrap file is stored locally.

13. The system of claim 9 wherein:

a connection to a server is available; and

the Web page comprises content obtained from the resources of the component module control object and from the server.

14. The system of claim 9 wherein at least one of the resources is accessed using the RES protocol.

15. The system of claim 9 wherein the object is an ActiveX control.

16. The system of claim 9 wherein the bootstrap file is a text document.

17. An article of manufacture embodying logic for performing a method of

electronically obtaining a Web page in a Web browser, the method comprising:

requesting a Web page;

obtaining a bootstrap file, wherein the bootstrap file comprises

a declaration of a component module control object; and

a script block comprising a method that accesses the component module control object;

obtaining the component module control object, wherein the component module control object comprises one or more resources;

installing the component module control object; and

using the method of the script block to extract a Web page based on the resources of the component module control object.

18. The article of manufacture of claim 17, the method further comprising:

determining if the control object is an up to date version of the control object;

if the control object is not an up to date version, obtaining and installing an up to date version of the control object.

19. The article of manufacture of claim 18 wherein the determining comprises:

obtaining a new bootstrap file;

examining an object declaration of the new bootstrap file to obtain version information; and

determining if the obtained object version information is more recent than

version information for an already installed object.

20. The article of manufacture of claim 17 wherein:

a connection to a server is not available; and

the Web page is obtained exclusively from the resources of the component module control object.

21. The article of manufacture of claim 17 wherein:

a connection to a server is available; and

the Web page comprises content obtained via the bootstrap file, wherein the bootstrap file is stored locally.

22. The article of manufacture of claim 17 wherein at least one of the resources is accessed using the RES protocol.

23. The article of manufacture of claim 17 wherein the object is an ActiveX control.

24. The article of manufacture of claim 17 wherein the bootstrap file is a text document.

25. A computer-implemented method for electronically delivering a Web page comprising:

(a) receiving a request for a Web page;

(b) transmitting a bootstrap file to a client, wherein the bootstrap file comprises:

(1) a declaration of a component module control object; and

(2) a script block comprising a method that accesses the component module control object;

(c) transmitting the component module control object to the client, wherein the component module control object:

(1) comprises one or more resources; and

(2) is used by the method of the script block to extract a Web page based on the resources of the component module control object.

26. A system for electronically delivering a Web page comprising:

(a) a bootstrap file, wherein the bootstrap file comprises:

(1) a declaration of a component module control object; and

(2) a script block comprising a method that accesses the component module control object;

(b) an application executing on a server computer, the application configured to:

(1) receive a request for a Web page;

(2) transmit the bootstrap file in response to the request; and

(3) transmit the component module control object identified in the bootstrap file, wherein the component module control object:

(i) comprises one or more resources; and

(ii) is used by the method of the script block to extract a Web page that is based on the resources of the component module control object.

27. An article of manufacture embodying logic for performing a method of electronically delivering a Web page, the method comprising:

(a) receiving a request for a Web page;

(b) transmitting a bootstrap file, wherein the bootstrap file comprises

(1) a declaration of a component module control object; and

(2) a script block comprising a method that accesses the component module control object;

(c) transmitting the component module control object, wherein the component module control object:

(1) comprises one or more resources; and

(2) is used by the method of the script block to extract a Web page based on the resources of the component module control object.